

Northlands

IN FOCUS

Monthly newsletter for our friends and business partners!

It's Easy Being Green!!

Vergennes—Northlands takes going green to the next level.

A recently acquired training hybrid vehicle has arrived on our campus! This is the newest addition to the Northlands' NATEF-certified Auto Technology shop. With the assistance of local dealers, Denecker Chevrolet in Vergennes and Shearer Chevrolet in South Burlington, a brand new Malibu hybrid and state of the art diagnostic equipment are now available for student training.

That is not all! To further continue with our green initiative, we are now able to offer online training which will enable Northlands automotive students to learn the necessary information without utilizing paper texts. Career Technical Training Instructor, Chuck Brighenti, says "This new training is invaluable to my students as they prepare for jobs in the greener automotive industry." Students will be trained on hybrid maintenance and repair with an emphasis on safety and the differences between that and a standard automobile.

In addition to the hybrid acquisition, Northlands Automotive students have been utilizing a State of Vermont website and program information that provides invaluable information on how to reduce, recycle and reuse automotive and universal waste. We have also acquired an aquarius- based parts washer that provides a 'greener' alternative to the previously used chemical-based washer.

If that wasn't enough to be proud of, our Security officers will now do their part to reduce Northlands carbon footprint as they cruise around the campus in a new

GEM— all electric vehicle. The gas savings is expected to be significant and we plan to eventually replace other center vehicles with electric golf carts, further reducing the Center's dependence on gasoline.



Northlands Automotive Technology trainees check out the new Hybrid!

At



Looks like there is something new under that hood!

Virtual Trainer

Northlands Job Corps Academy is pleased to announce the acquisition of virtual reality training equipment for teaching Driver's Education. **"VDI"** is a driver training program designed to simulate the total driving experience, without having to be in an actual driving situation. It allows at risk students the opportunity to acquire critical driving experience void of safety risks. VDI simulation is the only simulator to feature the National Driver Education Curriculum recommended by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The National curriculum and VDI's **"StreetReady"** software provides students with a variety of 20 minute lessons that instruct basic driving skills, provides hands-on virtual practice driving experience, and evaluates expertise of skill acquisition. Lessons include:

- driving preparation
- developing visual processing
- developing basic and advanced searching skills
(signs, signals and markings)
- evaluating to minimize risk
- executing effective speed and position adjustments
- managing intersections

- managing turns at intersections
- managing hills and curves
- managing time and space intervals
- responding to vehicle failures
- assessment of driver performance and awareness.

"StreetReady" reflects essential aspects of vehicle operation. In addition, many more detailed concepts that are often presented in non-simulation information regarding separation distances, collision avoidance, risk avoidance, and the dangers of driving while impaired by drugs or alcohol are reinforced in the simulation lessons. All 70 driving lessons can be driven under a variety of weather conditions (day, night, dusk, dawn, rain snow, fog and sunshine) with a drive time potential of over 20 hours. If standard conditions are used, each lesson can be completed in 20 minutes for a total of 4 hours (all 12 lessons).

"VDDC (Virtual Defense Driving Course)" software reinforces skills acquired in **"StreetReady"** by combining the curriculum with actual behind the wheel driving simulation environments. Instruction allows students to gain important insight and experience with potentially dangerous road and highway situations.



Carpentry Students Give to the Local Community

Northlands Carpentry Trade may be the newest offering for Career Technical Training here, but they have hit the ground running! In addition to the many campus projects they have successfully completed, Instructor Todd Lossman and his crew took on the task of building a tool/garden shed to be used by the Vergennes community Garden participants. The Community garden, which is located on the Northlands campus is a plot 100ft. By 80 ft divided into 18 plots. The plots are free of charge. Northlands 'Ladies of Success' were one of the first to lay claim to their plot and after consulting with Chris Lavalette, Culinary Instructor, planted corn, green beans, summer squash, cherry tomatoes, habanera peppers, basil, carrots and more! The vegetables will be used in the culinary kitchen, by students, as part of our commitment to teaching healthy choices and using local fresh produce.



Summer Job? VYCC Has the Answer !

Nine Northlands Vermont students have been offered the opportunity to be part of the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps work crew from June 21- July 31st.

They will be part of a crew of staff members working on different projects within Vermont State Parks. Projects include trail construction, trail maintenance, watershed restoration, state park management, historic building restoration, carpentry, including bridges, kiosks and staircases, trail structures, including drainages, rock staircases, retaining walls and step stones.

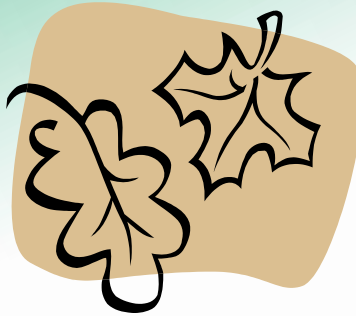
The students will be traveling from Northlands to Richmond Vermont, working 40 hours per week and making about \$322.40 a week.

Our students will also participate in the WoRD (Writing, Reading and Discussion) program which is a fundamental component of all VYCC Crews. This program encourages engaging in thoughtful discussions about meaningful, relevant topics throughout the work week. Using a compilation of current articles and essays, all

crews read aloud about important environmental and social issues that are relevant both locally and nationally. After reading, the crews discuss what they have read and take some time to write in their journals about the topic and discussion. This will assist our students in their academic and career technical training when they return to campus.

While these students will be working they will also be participating in team building workshops, learning important job skills, increasing their academic skills with writing, reading and discussion- all while giving back to the community. Congratulations to the following students on being chosen to participate in a vital part of this important work for the state of Vermont!

Emma Wetherby, Sadie Singleton, Desiree Martin, Josephina Diers, Amanda Mooney, Lawrence Hall, Ken Beane, Robert Mazza and Cody Emery



Why stop here? Northlands Success Stories.....

Northlands is always very proud of the hard work and dedication that each of our successful graduates exhibit. When we get positive news from them after they have gone, we are compelled to share- Here are two success stories: Nancy Reese, (HOT) and Ashley Dwelle-Jensen(Business Technology).

Ashley and Nancy both completed their training in 2009 and are living in West Charleston. They are renting an apartment where they have access to a large piece of land where they intend to raise chickens and possibly other animals for food. Nancy is working as a full time LNA at a local skilled nursing center (run by Genesis Healthcare) where she receives full benefits including tuition reimbursement to continue her education in the nursing profession. She will begin her pre-requisite education at CCV and will finish her LPN requirements at VTC . Nancy credits Job Corps with helping her to find her true vocation in life , after three unsuccessful attempts at college she , in her own words 'felt hopeless'- until she came to Northlands. Here she was able to build her self esteem and realize her true potential through career training, staff support and leadership classes.

Ashley began a position in April as an independent contractor for 'PartsFleet' where she will be delivering auto parts. She is very excited about the driving aspect and intends to take classes to obtain her CDL-A very soon.

We want to wish Nancy and Ashley continued success and are proud to have been a part of that process.



In HONOR OF OUR DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUE

Northlands is very honored to have several military veterans in our employ. One such employee is Keith Williams. Keith was recently honored and presented with the distinguished Purple Heart by Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT) at a ceremony held on May 19, 2010 in the Castleton State College library lounge. Mr. Williams, who is the Business Technology Instructor at Northlands, was honored for his bravery while serving our country in Iraq. Mr. Williams recalls that he was serving on night patrol in Bagdad, when the 'Humvee' he was riding in was hit by a roadside bomb. Soldiers on the left side of the vehicle were hurt badly, Keith was on of them. He was thrown from the vehicle and sustained life threatening injuries.

Today, we are very lucky to have Mr. Williams with us as he continues to inspire and teach. He is working towards his Masters Degree in Special Education and hopes to teach young people with learning disabilities at the high school level in the future.

To all of the veterans, and to Mr. Williams, we thank you for the brave sacrifices you have made to protect our freedom.



Officer Keith Williams with some local Iraqi children

Welcome to Our Special Events!

Join us at these exciting upcoming events! Can't find an event you and your family would like? We'd love to hear your ideas on what we could organize next!

French Heritage Days- Vergennes, VT

WHEN & WHERE: July 9 & 10, 2010- This 5th annual event is a cultural historical event that happens all around Vergennes. Family fun activities include: French toast breakfast, parade, music, horse & carriage rides, re-enactments, waiter's race and more. Check it out at www.frenchheritageday.com

Northlands Graduation Ceremony- Vergennes, VT

WHEN & WHERE: August 20, 2010 at 2pm in the gymnasium on the Northlands campus.

Please join us in honoring all our graduates and trade completers in a graduation ceremony with honored guests and cherished family members.

Northlands in Focus is the newsletter of the Northlands Job Corps Academy.



For suggestions, questions and comments, please contact

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